

5. (Amended.) A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 2 wherein the interior face is comprised of flexible vinyl, plastic or other flexible material.

6. (Amended.) A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the magnet support extends further beyond one magnetically charged face than the other magnetically charged face, to facilitate opening.

7. (Withdrawn.) A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the magnet support has a design affixed to the exterior surface of the magnet support.

8. (Amended.) A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the magnet support and the central hinge are comprised of a single piece of flexible vinyl, plastic or other flexible material.

9. (Amended.) A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 1 or 2 wherein all materials used in the device are capable of being cleaned, sanitized or sterilized.

REMARKS - GENERAL

During the telephone interview between the Examiner and Applicant's attorney, the Examiner indicated that she would reconsider the claims if the claims were amended to claim the invention in combination with a knife. The Examiner indicated that such an amendment might be acceptable. The Bergl6f patent does not mention the use of the described invention with a knife.

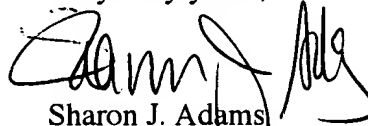
Applicant's invention uses the word "knife" in the title, has a drawing showing the knife, and describes using the invention with a knife. Therefore, no new matter is being introduced by this amendment.

Conclusion

Based on the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are allowable. Applicant has amended the claims to claim the invention in combination with a knife. Applicant's invention is therefore distinct from the Bergl6f patent.

Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Very truly yours,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE**In the claims:**

Please amend Claim 1 as follows:

1. A ~~device~~ device for securing knives in combination with a knife, the device comprising two magnetically charged faces, each magnetically charged face made of a magnet, and each magnetically charged face moveably attached to each other the other magnetically charged face by a magnet support with a central hinge, wherein, when in the closed position, the magnetically charged faces cover all, or a part of, ~~the a~~ knife blade, thereby securing and protecting the knife blade.

Please amend Claim 2 as follows:

2. A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 1 wherein the magnetically charged faces are entirely sealed between the magnet support and an interior face.

Please amend Claim 3 as follows:

3. A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the magnetically charged faces are made from the group consisting of ~~comprised of~~ lightweight or flexible magnets.

Please amend Claim 4 as follows:

4. A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the magnet support is comprised of flexible vinyl, plastic or other flexible material.

Please amend Claim 5 as follows:

5. A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 2 wherein the interior face is comprised of flexible vinyl, plastic or other flexible material.

Please amend Claim 6 as follows:

6. A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the magnet support extends further beyond one magnetically charged face than the other magnetically charged face, to facilitate opening.

Please amend Claim 8 as follows:

8. A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 1 or 2 wherein the magnet support and central hinge are comprised of a single piece of flexible vinyl, plastic or other flexible material.

Please amend Claim 9 as follows:

9. A device for securing knives in combination with a knife according to claim 1 or 2 wherein all materials used in the device are capable of being cleaned, sanitized or sterilized.